

Another Great Collection to be Sold!

Does your child really need that lunch money to buy lunch—pack him a sandwich! Do you really need that cup of premier coffee—drink water! Do you really need to fill that gas tank up—ride the bus or train (or your bike). Whatever you do fellow FCCB'ers, you will want to start saving those pennies (or hundred dollar bills) for another great sale. During the May Central States Numismatic Society's 66th Anniversary Convention at America's Center in St. Louis, Missouri, the **Thomas FX O'Mara** collection will join the Friedberg, Gengerke, Marchioni, Lee, etc collection and will be sold by Heritage **CAA**. The sale is 95% certain to be Friday night at 6P or 7P. Get up to the minute updates from the CAA website at www.heritagecoins.com and go to the CAA section. Tom has opted to have his collection sold in the same manner as Milt, in one sale, with one catalog. This tact, while maybe not the most financially advantageous for him, shows that he views his collection as something to be shared with the collecting community and not solely as an investment to be turned over. His sale's catalog, like Milt's will become a reference book for future generations of collectors. For this, I personally thank him! As most of you know, **CAA** co-founder Len Glazer is a founding member of the FCCB. Len has Tom's collection in hand now and is feverishly working to catalog it. I have not spoken to Len about how he is setting the catalog up, but truly hope it will be like Milt's in that all notes possible are pedigreed. My truly selfish side also hopes that all notes are cataloged one by one instead of in multiple groupings.

Tom has served our hobby well. He started collecting fractional in 1990 when he bought a fractional lot from a Christie's sale. He sold a lot of the duplicates and BOOM, a collector was born. He joined our group in November 1992 as member #184. However, the first time I met him was at the Friedberg sale in January 1997. From there, he caught the fever even more, moving to exhibiting, writing and eventually leading our little slice of the hobby. He won many exhibit awards at Memphis, including two first place awards given by the FCCB and the SPMC Best of Show in 1999. He wrote many articles for the FCCB News and Paper Money and other publications, including The Numismatist, CWTS Journal, etc. He took over as President of the FCCB from Doug Hales at the 1997 Memphis Paper Money Show and held the post until his work requirements forced him to hand over the reins to current President Benny Bolin at the 2003 Memphis Show.

Tom's collection is heavily made up of notes from the Friedberg Sale and the aftermarket of that sale. In fact at his last tally, Tom approximates about 166 notes have found their way from the MRF collection into the TFXILOM collection. He continued buying heavily from sales of noted collections and also direct from prominent dealers. Tom bought directly at the noted auctions of the Alan May, Halpern, Randy Haynie, Delger, Liechty, Frank Harris, Marchioni, Gengerke, Harold Korin, Hoffman and of course the recent Ford sales. Tom bought the Doug Hales collection in October, 1999, in its' entirety. This further progressed his collection to near completion and greatly improved the condition of many of the rare notes. Doug's collection had over 600 notes in it and was probably the second best collection in existence at the time.

FCCB
C/o Jerry Fochtman
2818 Mountain Green Trail
Kingwood, TX 77345
(281) 361-8948
jfochtman@bradmark.com

Then came a real opportunity for Tom when noted dealer Tom Denly privately arranged the purchase of the Michael Goldman examples of the Fr. 1255a, 1352 and 1373a in July 2000. Other prominent dealers who have added to the O'Mara collection over the years are; Rob Kravitz, Art Kagin, Len Glazer, Bruce Hagen, Hugh Shull, Remy Bourne as well as numerous others. BTW—what do you think his favorite note is? His favorite series is the Lincoln fifty-cent and his favorite note is one that has not been seen—a *rumored* Lincoln courtesy autographed fractional note! Tom has been a major force in our hobby and we will miss him, but wish him well.

Sale Highlights

The O'Mara collection numbers just under 1,000 notes. The incredible thing about this is that these are all distinct notes. Tom did not keep duplicates—as many of us know from buying from him at Memphis and other shows. One area that you will not see in the sale is Tom's collection of payables and look-alikes. Tom sees these as a cross between fractional and his scrip (NJ—still collecting due to the local history buff that still resides inside him) so he will retain them. Hopefully we will see them at Memphis in an exhibit some day and maybe cataloged.

Regular Issue Notes: As stated, Tom has one of two known complete sets of regular issue notes. He has all the major notes, including the aforementioned 1352 and the 1373a. He also has a 1255a and the 1351, 1353 and 1354. Many of his notes are finest known. He also has many sheets of first and second issue notes as well as many multiples of perforated first issue notes and third issue five and ten-cent notes. All in all, there are about 243 regular issue notes due to the propensity of various attributable Milton #s for color and paper varieties, etc.

Proofs/Specimens: There are about 175 different proof and specimen pieces, both obverses and reverses, which include various paper varieties, etc. There are many first and fourth issue proofs which are not in Friedberg, yet are in MRF's Encyclopedia. Tom has a near complete set of proofs and specimens as well. He lacks only the elusive wide margin proof Fr. 1226-SP, the 3-cent light curtain (unique and in another FCCB members collection).

Errors/Inverts: One of the highlights of his collection, besides the 1352 are his inverts which he showcased with very uniquely made mirrored plexi-glass mounts in his award winning exhibit at the 1999 Memphis show and then in an article in Paper Money. There are about 75+ individual and distinct inverts and about 20 errors. Many of his inverts are unique. He also has multiple runs of inverts, where his collection includes the inverted reverse surcharge, the inverted reverse engraving and the inverted entire back of the same number. He has inverts of perforated and straight edge first issue notes as well as many third issue inverts. MRF had 90 lots of inverts in his sale, which included 67 distinct inverts (the rest were duplicates).

Experimentals and Essays: The O'Mara collection has approximately 150 distinct varietal examples of experimentals and essays from the first issue to the fifth. His collection includes multiple examples of negative essays, including two sets (5c-50c), one in purple and one in blue as well as a set of color trials. It also includes the complete block of six twenty-five cent notes with FIFTY in bronze. Die proofs, essays, triple punched notes and other trials are also represented.

Courtesy Autographs: Approximately 75 courtesy autographed notes are in the O'Mara collection. All of the known courtesy autographs are represented, including the Jas Gilfillan set of first issue autographed notes from Milt's sale as well as the complete set of six unique Lee McClung notes (5, 10, 15 (G/S), 25 and 50-cent Justice and Spinner third issue), completed with the purchase of the deeply treasured Clark autographed note from Milt's sale via me (just wanted EVERYONE to know I contributed a small part to this great sale). John New, John Burke, Carmi Thompson, Frank White, Houston Teehee, G.E. Parker, W. B. Elliot, J. C. Napier, A.U. Wyman, D. N. Morgan and B.K. Bruce all are represented in the grouping. Regular issues, proofs/specimens & experimental autographed notes are all represented. Also in this category, there are autographs of all the major figures related to fractional such as General F. E. Spinner, William Crawford, Meredith, Stanton, etc.

Presentation Book: Of course, the collection is punctuated by the presence of President Andrew Johnson's presentation book. This book was owned by renowned numismatist William Philpott (a Texan) in 1932 and then B. Max Mehl (another Texan) from 1932-1955. In 1965, it showed up in an Abner Kriesberg sale where Milt Friedberg bought it. Milt kept it until 1978 when he traded it to Martin Gengerke, who later that year traded it to Doug Hales. Tom purchased the book from Doug in 1996, a full three years before buying the Hale's collection in it's' entirety. Of course, it started out in President Andrew Johnson's hands!!! (Rumor has it that Attorney General James Speed's previously unknown presentation book will also be offered at the auction, but is not part of the O'Mara collection.

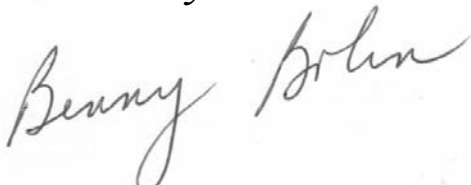
Postage Pattern Coins and Miscellaneous: While not a major portion of the collection, there are about eight extremely rare examples of postage currency coin patterns. One of the highlights is the ROYAL coin, a postage currency pattern from the King Farouk sale, with the original holder. Other noted pattern pedigrees are Eliasberg, Friedberg, Hales and Wolfe. The miscellaneous category is a neat smorgasbord and includes things such as a Green Shield, many fractional wallets, match safes and an extensive collection of fractional related vignettes.

I hope that as many of you as possible will be able to make this historic sale. Keep an eye on the Heritage **CAA** website at heritagecoins.com for further updates and news. Due to the timing of the sale, it is highly unlikely that we will be able to have another newsletter go out before this sale.

After sale get-together: Tom is not due in to the sale until around 3P the day of the sale and has to leave early the next morning. Therefore, as President of the FCCB, I am hosting an FCCB gathering at the hotel (probably in the bar) after the sale. All members and their families are invited to a good old-fashioned FCCB get together. For those who are already asking—I am merely the host and not the provider of either beverage or foodstuffs! In other words—au gratin, ala carte, al dente or in Texan—buy your own!!!

I hope to see you there supporting Tom and the FCCB!!!

Presidentially

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benny Bolin". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Benny Bolin

